GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
SHEEP BRAIN VACCINE
MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that India is now the only country in the world using live sheep brains for vaccines;

(b) whether it is also true that people taking these vaccines are at severe risk; and

(c) if so, the action taken/being taken to change to Tissue Culture Vaccines and by when the live sheep vaccines are likely to be phased out?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) India is not the only country using live sheep brain vaccines.

(b) Sheep brain anti-rabies vaccine (NTV) is in vogue in the country for the last several years.The incidence of Neuro-paralytic reaction due to this vaccine is very low, which is 1:10,000.

(c) In view of WHO recommendations to phase out NTV and prefer the use of Tissue Culture anti-rabies vaccine, the Government has initiated steps to augment the capacity of Tissue Culture anti-rabies vaccine production. It may take some time to totally phase out NTV.